



Atty. Dkt. No. 023971-0374

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Takashi SHIRAKAWA et al.  
Title: EXHAUST GAS PURIFYING APPARATUS AND METHOD  
FOR INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE  
Appl. No.: 10/780,774  
Filing Date: 2/19/2004  
Examiner: Tu Minh NGUYEN  
Art Unit: 3748  
Confirmation Number: 2066

Approved for Entry  
1/16/2007  
TMN

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

**Mail Stop AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated September 28, 2006, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: